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In re Application of
BURTON et al.
Application No.: 10/731,816
Filed: December 09, 2003
Attorney Docket No.: CQ10430
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
MONITORING CONSCIOUSNESS

DECISION ON PETITION

This decision is issued in response to applicant's Petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) dated November 06, 2009 to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed international application set forth set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is GRANTED.

The present nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed international application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Therefore, this is a proper petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed international application has been included in an amendment filed with present petition, as provided by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed international application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the benefit claim to the prior-filed international application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Anthony Smith, Attorney Advisor, at (571) 272-3298. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 3735 for appropriate action on the amendment filed November 06, 2009, including consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed application.



Boris Milef
Senior PCT Legal Examiner
Office of PCT Legal Administration

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt